

## Idaho Sheep Industry Suffers A \$4.35 Million Death And Theft Loss

Idaho sheep producers lost an estimated 42,000 head of sheep and lambs from all causes, valued at \$4.35 million, in 2000. This compares with losses totaling 43,000 head with a value of \$4.26 million in 1999.

Predator losses at 34.0 percent, accounted for the largest share of losses. Coyotes did the most damage, at 9,900 head of sheep and lambs. Losses from coyotes alone were valued at \$1,025,000. Dogs claimed 1,300 head of sheep and lambs valued at \$135,000; bears were responsible for the deaths of 900 head, valued at \$93,000; cougars caused 600 deaths, valued at \$62,000; and fox killed 300 head, valued at \$31,000. Losses

from other and unknown predators, including bobcats, eagles and wolves, accounted for an additional 1,300 head of sheep and lambs.

Disease claimed 5,800 sheep and lambs in 2000. Lambing complications claimed 5,200; weather killed 3,600 head; 1,400 were lost to old age; 1,300 died of poisoning; and 500 were lost to theft. Other causes such as accidents, fire, starvation and dehydration caused an additional 4,000 sheep and lamb deaths during 2000.

### Sheep and Lamb Losses: by Cause, Idaho, 1998-00 <sup>1/</sup>

Cause of Death	Sheep						Lambs						Value of All Sheep and Lambs 3/4/5/		
	Head			Percent of Total Loss 2/			Head			Percent of Total Loss 2/					
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
1,000 Dollars															
Coyote . . . . .	2,500	1,700	2,000	25.0	17.0	20.0	8,700	7,700	7,900	29.0	23.3	24.7	1,193	930	1,025
Dog . . . . .	200	500	300	2.0	5.0	3.0	300	600	1,000	1.0	1.8	3.1	53	109	135
Bear . . . . .	500	400	300	5.0	4.0	3.0	600	500	600	2.0	1.5	1.9	117	89	93
Cougar . . . . .	300	200	200	3.0	2.0	2.0	900	400	400	3.0	1.2	1.3	128	59	62
Fox . . . . .	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	200	300	300	0.7	0.9	0.9	21	30	31
Other 6/ . . . . .	0	0	100	0.0	0.0	1.0	100	300	800	0.3	0.9	2.5	11	30	93
Unknown Predator . . . . .	0	0	100	0.0	0.0	1.0	200	200	300	0.7	0.6	0.9	21	20	41
TOTAL PREDATORS	3,500	2,800	3,000	35.0	28.0	30.0	11,000	10,000	11,300	36.7	30.3	35.3	1,544	1,267	1,480
Weather . . . . .	100	600	100	1.0	6.0	1.0	5,000	4,200	3,500	16.7	12.7	10.9	543	475	373
Disease . . . . .	1,300	1,800	1,200	13.0	18.0	12.0	5,200	7,600	4,600	17.3	23.0	14.4	692	930	600
Poison . . . . .	800	600	700	8.0	6.0	7.0	700	500	600	2.3	1.5	1.9	160	109	135
Lambing	1,200	600	1,200	12.0	6.0	12.0	3,200	3,700	4,000	10.7	11.2	12.5	469	426	538
Old Age . . . . .	1,400	1,500	1,400	14.0	15.0	14.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	149	149	145
Theft . . . . .	100	100	200	1.0	1.0	2.0	200	200	300	0.7	0.6	0.9	32	30	52
On Back . . . . .	100	100	200	1.0	1.0	2.0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11	10	21
Other 7/ . . . . .	500	700	600	5.0	7.0	6.0	2,300	3,200	3,400	7.7	9.7	10.6	298	386	414
Unknown Causes 8/ . . . . .	1,000	1,200	1,400	10.0	12.0	14.0	2,400	3,600	4,300	8.0	10.9	13.4	362	475	590
TOTAL . . . . .	10,000	10,000	10,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	30,000	33,000	32,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	4,260	4,257	4,348

<sup>1/</sup> Includes lamb deaths before docking of 16,000 in 1998, 17,000 in 1999, and 17,000 in 2000. <sup>2/</sup> Percentages may not add due to rounding. <sup>3/</sup> Based on average of beginning year and end of year value of head: 1998-\$106.50, 1999-\$99.00, 2000-\$103.50. <sup>4/</sup> Rounded to nearest 1,000 dollars. <sup>5/</sup> Dollar values were rounded to add to total. <sup>6/</sup> Includes bobcats, eagles, and wolves. <sup>7/</sup> Includes accidents, fire, starvation, dehydration, etc. <sup>8/</sup> Exact cause of death unidentifiable. May include some predator loss